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The Fort Erie Times

Thursday, April 25, 2013

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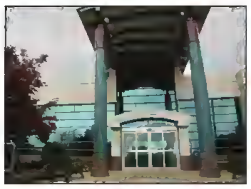

Legal costs could fall on councillors

If judge rules against members of council, Town will not cover costs

02

Cop gets year in jail

Purdie will not be allowed to enter U.S. after serving time

09

Model to compete in Miss Canada Globe 2013

get it online
www.forterietimes.ca

Pre–season cookout

KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times

Members of the Fort Erie Cannons men's baseball team were at Sobey's last Saturday, cooking hot dogs and sausages for fans as they came in and out of the local grocery store. The team was able to raise about $800 for its upcoming season and are thankful for all of the meat that was donated by Sobey's. The team also wants to thank local resident Mike Delle Rose for the free use of his barbecue trailer.

Prince of Wales Stakes moving to Tuesday

Racing consortium trying new things in 2013

Kris Dubé
Editor

The tradition of the Fort Erie Racetrack is alive and well but its most historic and prestigious race will most likely see some changes this season.

Since 1959, the Prince of Wales stakes race which is the second jewel in the Canadian triple crown of horse racing, has been held on a Sunday afternoon. But just last week, the Fort Erie Live Racing Consortium (FELRC)'s board of directors voted in favour of holding it on a Tuesday when the track offers its twilight series.

"Moving it is not an easy decision," said the FELRC's chief executive officer Jim Thibert.

"We are going to be doing a few things differently," he added.

See Page 2

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Race Track will have less pari–mutuel competition on a Tuesday

From Page 1

Thibert said the reasoning behind switching the day of the week that the racetrack would host the decorated event was met with some opposition from people who are comfortable with the annual tradition and the way it has been run for almost 60 years. But new methods and strategies need to be attempted, according to Thibert.

"We have to get ahead of the curve and look into breaking from tradition, or at least try," he said.

Thibert said the decision was made for a number of reasons but mainly because 75 per cent of the track's income depends on pari-mutuel wagering from around the continent and on a Tuesday, there are far less racetracks to compete with compared to a typical Sunday..

> **"We have to get ahead of the curve and look into breaking from tradition, or at least try."**
>
> *—Jim Thibert*

"On a Tuesday, we're basically going up against nobody," said Thibert.

"In the end, everyone is onboard and thinks it's innovative."

Another factor is the scheduling for jockeys that would be competing in the race, that spend most of their time at Woodbine.

Considering that Tuesdays are generally a slow time of the week at the Greater Toronto Area racetrack, holding the Prince of Wales on a Tuesday is more convenient for riders.

"On a Sunday, you have jockeys that give up a full day of racing for one race," said Thibert.

The season starts on May 26 and is expected to also include 10 days of quarter horse racing.

Twilight Racing will hit the track on Tuesdays at 4:15 p.m., in the months of June, July and August.

Councillors could be on the hook if judge rules against them

The cost of four Fort Erie councillors being taken to court will not be known until a judge with the Ontario Superior Court of Justice provides a verdict.

Last week, legal action being taken by former Ward 4 Coun. Tim Whitfield was made public.

His statement includes written support from Mayor Doug Martin, alleging that councillors Bob Steckley, Paul Collard, John Hill and Don Lubberts contravened the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act during the process of terminating the Town of Fort Erie's director of legal services, Heather Salter.

The decision was made in a series of closed session meetings and she was officially given notice in March 2012..

In Whitfield's affidavit, he says Salter filed a workplace harassment complaint against the four members of council.

The harassment complaint was later dropped for a payment of $50,000 in taxpayer money to Salter, according to Whitfield's statement.

Whitfield feels the conflict lies in the fact that none of the four respondents made any declaration when voting on Salter's severance even though $50,000 of the amount was used to provide them with a "pecuniary benefit."

A court date has been scheduled in May and if it is ruled that any members of council have contravened the Act, it will come out of their own pocket.

This is written in a by-law that was established in 1993 that says the municipal corporation's insurance provides for the re-imbursement of legal fees and expenses incurred if a court decides there has been no contravention of the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act.

If a court does decide a contravention was made as a result of inadvertence, remoteness, insignificance or a bona fide error in judgment, the Town of Fort Erie's insurance would also cover expenses.

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Thumbs up for Earth Day

KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times

General Vanier Public School students, from left, Mackenzie Kinghorn, Michael Hardison, Colin Howe and River Pembleton were excited about doing their part on Earth Day, cleaning up the grounds around the Fort Erie Race Track.

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HEALTHY COMMUNITIES ARE EVERYONE'S BUSINESS

Bridges Community Health Centre (CHC) will hold its seventh Annual General Meeting on Thursday, June 27th, 2013. The meeting will take place in the Community Room at its Port Colborne site, 177 King Street, Port Colborne. Registration will take place at 6:30 pm, and the meeting will begin at 7:00 pm.

Applications for membership are available at 177 King St, Port Colborne, or 1485 Garrison Rd, Fort Erie, or on their website at www.bridgeschc.ca. In order to be eligible to vote at the AGM, membership applications must be received by 4:00pm on Wednesday, May 22nd.

Individuals interested in becoming a member of the Board of Directors should submit a resume along with their completed application for membership.

Bridges CHC serves the communities of Fort Erie, Port Colborne and Wainfleet. If being part of a vibrant health care service provider in your community interests you, please visit the website for more information about their programs and services.

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES ARE EVERYONE'S BUSINESS

MAKE IT YOURS

MELISSA MANGELSEN Fort Erie Times

Melissa Hague brought her motivational message to Ridgeway-Crystal Beach High School students last week.

Paraplegic woman wants students to make the right choice

Melissa Mangelsen
Fort Erie Times

Thirty years ago, 12- year -old Melissa Hague was driving with her mom when they came across a serious car crash. It was after seeing that crash and waiting in traffic that she said "we're really lucky that hasn't happened to our family."

To this day, those words still ring through her mind because about 20 minutes later, her mom, younger sister and herself were in a crash that changed her life forever.

Hague said she doesn't remember the actual event, but remembers the bad 80s music they were listening to prior to it happening.

When she woke up she was alone and scared in a hospital, so she did what most 12-year- olds would do, she continuously asked for her mom.

"No one would tell me where she was, when I first saw my dad I begged him to tell me where my mom was and that's when he told me that she had died in that crash," recalled Hague.

She was at Ridgeway-Crystal Beach High School on Thursday to tell her story to Gr. 9 students in hopes to educate them on the consequences of making bad choices.

She was part of the Smartrisk No Regrets Live program, which is an internationally acclaimed presentation that encourages young people to choose to take smart risks. Their goal is to help youth see the risks in their everyday lives and to take risks in the smartest way possible so they can enjoy life to the fullest. It combined a DVD presentation as well as the message that Hague brought.

In the crash Hague broke her back, which damaged her spinal cord. The injury prevented her from ever walking again.

"It was devastating news, but I thought I would be the exception, the one who got up and walked," she said.

Hague, who is now 42-years- old, talked about how difficult life in a wheelchair is.

"It's the simple tasks like getting dressed, getting into a car, getting into a bathtub," she said. "It's also the things like using the bathroom, I use a catheter to empty my bladder and have to watch how much I drink and time it, because I don't have feeling, I can't feel when I need to go."

See Page 31

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opinion page

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Do You Remember?

It was such a beautiful day Monday that we expect everyone was too busy enjoying the weather to call in about last week's photo published in honour of Earth Day.

We did hear from Kimberly Putney about the golf tournament photo. Her dad, Gordon Putney, was the founder and owner of Sunset Golf Centre from the 1960 till 1999 when it became the Fort Erie Golf Club.

Both he and his wife Davina Putney helped support Douglas Memorial Hospital by hosting these annual tournaments.

In this week's photo, women from the Y's Menettes are making posters to promote health films to be shown at the Fort Erie YMCA.

Do you know any of these women or when this photo was taken? Please call the Museum at 894-5322 or e-mail museum@forterie.on.ca.

Be thankful Fort Erie doesn't have 4/20 rally

Kris Dubé
Editor's Notebook

There are two kinds of potheads and on a day like '4/20,' you see them both.

Last Saturday was the annual celebration for marijuana enthusiasts all over the world and unlike our friends up the Queen Elizabeth Way in Niagara Falls, things were pretty quiet around here.

I've never covered a local story about this strange holiday but when I found out a Grateful Dead cover band was playing in Ridgeway I thought that could be my chance to give it a try for the first time.

I know very little about the Grateful Dead but I've heard people who like to smoke weed are fans. I know don't know how else to put it for you.

I arrived early at the Sanctuary, the epitome of a great local venue for artistic-minded people to enjoy themselves.

In the short time there, I didn't see anyone smoking and left-handed cigarettes and nobody busted out the bong, to my knowledge.

I did meet a nice gentleman named Johannes Chapman who admitted to smoking marijuana on a regular schedule but that wasn't what he wanted to talk about when I explained I'd be rolling up a story for the local newspaper.

He talked about his company the Singing Canary, specializing in 100 per cent legal hemp seeds.

They're roasted, seasoned and considered to be a highly nutritious snack.

Planning to perhaps get a photo of someone in the act of smoking marijuana, it didn't look like that was going to happen.

This event was also considered a time to celebrate Earth Day and was simply a concert that happened to land on the same date.

I do want to use this column as an opportunity to share why I think 4/20 is such an absurd day.

I understand why pro-marijuana activists attend rallies or protest the Canadian government about legalization on this day... that's one of the two types of pot users I mentioned off the bat.

The second type is the clueless doofus who treats it as an opportunity to get away with lighting up in public during the middle of the afternoon, probably wearing a ridiculous hat while draped in a flag with a pot leaf-themed Canadian flag.

See page 21

opinion page

Reader feels minimum requirement of Planning Act is not adequate

Dear Editor,

This is an alert to all property owners.

Did you know that your property zoning, the most significant aspect of your property, can be changed without direct letter notification to you?

Your zoning outlines your permitted uses. When you purchased your property you bought those approved uses.

That's what you paid for, and this determines the resale value of your property.

Recently, Community and Development Services (i.e. the planning department) received approval for major Housekeeping amendments to the Town's Comprehensive Zoning By-law.

Seven new zones were created and changes were made to others, including a reduction in "permitted uses" for some property owners. Currently, there is no requirement to directly notify those property owners whose zone is being changed.

It could be you, or someone close to you.

Private applications for rezoning or by-law changes require a letter notifying neighbouring landowners.

Amazingly, there is no such requirement when such changes are initiated by a municipality....even to your very own property!

A notice in the local newspaper is all that is required.

Although this meets the minimum requirements of the Planning Act, it is certainly not adequate.

Many people don't get the paper, and not everyone has the time to read it thoroughly. Property owners who live out of town or are away on vacation are out of luck. Even those who read the paper might not comprehend how their property is affected. The onus is on the property owner to interpret the planning terminology in the public notice, and to determine if it will affect them.

As it stands, many (if not most) of those affected by Fort Erie's recent bi-law passage, will not be aware of the changes.

You may be an affected property owner, who has not had the opportunity to speak to council before the changes were enacted.

Planning staff can change zones and create by-laws that change your property rights through "housekeeping procedures" whenever they see fit. We have personally experienced erosion of property rights on two occasions, through official plan changes and imposed rezoning.

Without a "direct letter notification procedure" in place, it can happen to you.

Speak to your councillor.

Town planners will use direct letter notification procedures only if required to do so by a vote of council.

In order to change current policy, councillors need to pass a by-law so that taxpayers will be directly notified if their property zone or "permitted uses" will be changed, modified or altered; either by official plan or by-law amendment. It's the right and fair thing to do.

Helma Holmes
and family
Ridgeway

Take the Times

Recently the Wilson family made a trip to Disney World and were kind enough to bring along the Fort Erie Shopping Times. From left to right are James, Cohen, Jessica, Reid, Bev, Lucy, Jacob, Jamie and Elliott.

Mayor should be neutral as chairperson, says reader

Dear Editor,

The Mayor of Fort Erie is unhappy with the termination of several staff members, as he appears to have had close and comfortable relationships with the two former Town employees.

Most of us who watch Cogeco cable , channel I0 understand why Council felt the need, to not renew their contracts. The lawyer whenever asked questions about issues affecting Council agenda, council was stonewalled and not able to get any information with a straight answer.

The Mayor who is supposed to be neutral as the Chairperson, aids and abets this unhelpful behaviour.

Rules of Order, says that the Chairperson is required to make sure microphones and speakers are in working order, yet he is flipping switches and cutting the sound off, this juvenile behaviour brings disrespect to running a Council meeting. I have made inquires from government agencies, their recommendation is that our Town of Fort Erie adopt an Independent Integrity Commission to mediate and rule on these frivolous and time consuming law suits. It is to be noted if a member of staff divulged sensitive in-camera information to an outside person, that person would be terminated for Breach of Trust. A Mayor doing this is unheard of, perhaps a leave of absence should be considered for our mayor, Town business cannot be done in such a toxic environment.

George Jardine
Stevensville

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Brothers write anti–bullying book

Melissa Mangelsen
Fort Erie Times

Everyday 160,000 students are afraid to go to school because they are victims of bullying.

Bullying has been in the news a lot lately, and with the use of social media and cell phones, bullies are using those as tools to target people.

Bullying can destroy lives, but three Fort Erie brothers, believe they have written a book that can save lives.

The book Death to Bullying, written by Dale, Robert and Gary Hirons, is an educational program that Robert believes should be taught in all schools.

Though there are already hundreds of books published on bullying, Dale said their book is unique because it doesn't look at the after effects of bullying, but it attacks the root of bullying and teaches students at a young age not to be bullies.

"We took a look at bullying and how to stop it. We took a proactive approach to it and looked at attacking the root cause and teaching students how to not be bullies. We took a different approach and that's why it's unique to others," said Dale.

The book educates on all the various types of bullying, drug abuse, alcohol abuse, date rape and special needs.

Special needs students are the most bullied students in the school system, which Dale said is disturbing.

"If the bullying doesn't stop for the students with special needs, they don't stand much of a chance," he said.

Many families have been destroyed by the effects of bullying. Bullying doesn't discriminate and it affects every part of society.

"There isn't a lot of support out there for students who are being bullied. If they report it, the punishment isn't severe enough on the bully, so they still have to go to school and face that person. From there it tends to snowball into increased bullying because they are now considered 'rats'."

The Hiron brothers believe that the first step to preventing bullying is to give bullies the maximum punishment, which is expulsion.

"Some kids are taking their own lives, or being pulled out of school because they have to face that bully everyday. If the bully isn't being expelled, they're still there. I believe there should be police involvement," he said.

See Page 9

Have you HEARD?
by Alaina Hillier, M.Cl.Sc
Registered by CASLPO
Doctor in Audiology, Audiologist

REPEAT OFFENDERS

It you often have to ask conversation partners to repeat their comments, it is quite likely that you have a problem with your hearing that merits examination. Age-related hearing loss, known as "presbycusis" occurs slowly and is inevitable as a person gets older. According to the National Institutes ot Health, nearly one-third of adults between the ages of 65 and 74 and almost half of those 75 and older experience some degree ot hearing loss. The first indication ot hearing loas that many have is the inability to distinguish between high-frequency sounds. For instance, it may be difficult to tell the difference between consonanta such as "s" and "th." Fortunately, hearing instruments can help make conversation more clear. Not being able to hear adequately can be a satety concern – especially when it interferea with the ability to hear warning signals, such as police sirena, weather alarma or railroad crosaing and train whiatles. Adults who have treated their hearing loaa report benefits that include bettsr relationahips with their familiea, more sslf confidencs, improved mantal health, and greater independsnca and sacurity. To schedula a hearing axam, pleasa call HEARAGAIN BALANCE & HEARING CLINICS at 905-871-4242. Locatad at **669 Garrlaan Rd., Unit 12, wa are apan M-F, 9am-5pm. Most majar Inaarenca accaptad. Plaaaa vlait nar wabalta at** www.hearagainclinics.com

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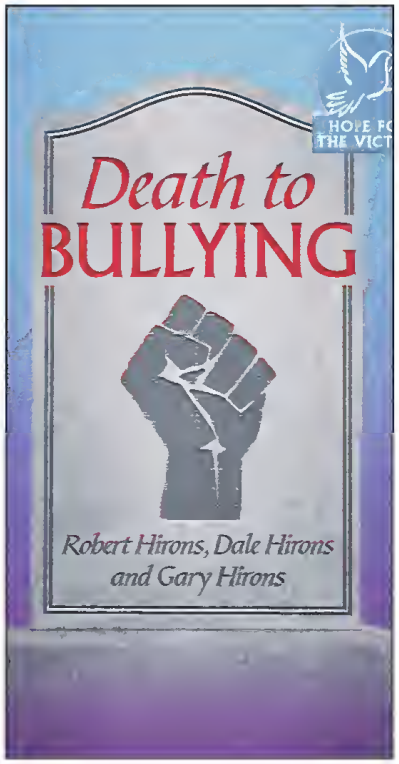

The cover of an anti-bullying book authored by local brothers Gary, Robert and Dale Hirons.

Purdie gets one year in U.S. jail

Tony Ricciuto
QMI Agency Niagara

A disgraced former Niagara Regional police officer has been sentenced to one year in jail for exporting anabolic steroids from the United States into Canada.

Geoffrey Purdie, a 14-year veteran of the NRP, appeared in a Buffalo courtroom Monday for sentencing in front of U. S. District Judge Richard Arcara.

Purdie, 41, of Fort Erie, pleaded guilty to the charge during an earlier court appearance.

"I have hurt a lot of people, my family, my friends and co-workers," said Purdie, admitting he made a bad mistake when he agreed to take some packages across the border.

Purdie said he was proud to wear the uniform, but he betrayed the trust that had been given to him.

"I am now a criminal and I hurt my family the most," he said, noting his wife has been his rock and he has put her future in jeopardy now that he has lost his job.

Purdie said he should have said no after being asked to bring some packages across the border, but he didn't and broke the oath he had taken when he became a police officer.

He added that in cases such as this, other police officers also become tainted, but he takes full

Geoff Purdie

responsibility for happened.

"I just want to apologize to my family, my employer and my friends," said Purdie, who had a number of family supporters in the courtroom.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Mary Catherine Baumgarten said Purdie was employed as a constable with the Niagara Regional Police. On several occasions in November and December 2011, Purdie entered the United States and retrieved packages containing steroids that had been shipped to a business in the U.S. Purdie then smuggled the steroids from the United States into Canada.

According to court documents, the border enforcement security unit of Homeland Security seized $580,000 of testosterone, steroids, Valium, Xanax and growth hormones in Buffalo.

Purdie was originally charged with conspiracy to export controlled substances with intent to distribute them.

When travelling across the border, Purdie presented his official identification as a law enforcement officer to immigration agents in order to return to Canada.

The guilty plea was a culmination of an investigation by organizations on both sides of the border.

The judge told court Purdie has caused embarrassment for himself and all those who care for him.

"It's a situation that should never of happened," said Arcara, adding law enforcement officers are held to a higher standard so it's disturbing when that trust is broken.

The judge said Purdie co-operated with the authorities following his arrest and that was taken into account on sentencing.

Purdie's lawyer, Herb Greenman, said his client "did a lot of good things" while he was police officer, but he gave it all up after he agreed to do someone a favour by picking up some packages.

See Page 15

Families have been destroyed by bullying

From Page 8

Special needs students are the most bullied students in the school system, which Dale said is disturbing.

"If the bullying doesn't stop for the students with special needs, they don't stand much of a chance," he said.

Many families have been destroyed by the effects of bullying. Bullying doesn't discriminate and it affects every part of society.

"There isn't a lot of support out there for students who are being bullied. If they report it, the punishment isn't severe enough on the bully, so they still have to go to school and face that person. From there it tends to snowball into increased bullying because they are now considered 'rats'."

The Hiron brothers believe that the first step to preventing bullying is to give bullies the maximum punishment, which is expulsion.

"Some kids are taking their own lives, or being pulled out of school because they have to face that bully everyday. If the bully isn't being expelled, they're still there. I believe there should be police involvement," he said.

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Brick to dogs in hot cars

Even though it's only Spring and the scorching heat has not landed upon us yet, I still see people leaving their dogs in the car on the few warm days we've had lately. If you really do love your dog, leave him or her at home and don't make them grasp for air in the car while you buy groceries.

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Brick to owners of frantic dog

This is a brick to the two people who I saw leave their dog in front of a local store recently and to put it lightly, this dog was frantic and terrified about being left alone. Thankfully another customer came out and sat with the dog for a bit until the owners arrived.

Brick to dogs outside all day

I'd like to send a brick to people who leave their dogs outside all day when they are at work. All they do is bark at anything that moves and there is no reason why they should be left outside all day to annoy the entire neighbourhood.

Bouquet to people staying positive

This is a bouquet to people who are focusing on positive things like a contest to name Fort Erie the country's favourite fishing town, or cleaning up litter on Earth Day. We need more attention paid to things like this.

Brick to political climate

I'd like to send a brick to the mayor for his role in taking four members of council to court. I feel he should be focused on leadership, even if he doesn't like some of the decisions made by his colleagues on council.

Send your bricks & bouquets to: editorial@forteriretimes.com or phone: 905–871–3100 ext. 210

Bouquet to authorities in Boston

This is a bouquet to all the people affected by the recent terror attack in Boston, as well as the authorities. Stay Boston Strong!

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Ask the Expert

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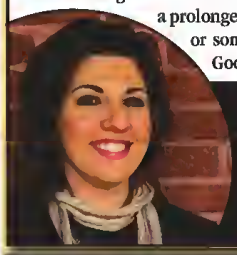
ASK THE HAIR STYLIST

Q: I feel like I'm going bald, should I be worried?

A: Hair loss worries both men and women. Progressive hair loss begins naturally in both sexes by about age 50, accelerating in the seventies and eighties. About 40 percent of caucasian men lose some hair by age 35. Hair shedding in males is often due to androgenetic alopecia - genetic/hormonal or "male pattern" balding. Hair may fall out because of overtight hairstyles, some illnesses or excessive coloring and curling. Hair shedding is often noted up to six months after child birth, following a prolonged fever, surgery, emotional upset, depression or some other traumatic event. Try not to worry. Good nutrition is essential for healthy hair.



Jaclyn Rhodes at *The Seville*
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Ask a Restaurateur

Q: I'm thinking of opening a large restaurant. Would it be wise to divide my dining room in half or keep it as one?

A: Great question. Creating two separate dining areas gives you the flexibility of making a separate dining room for special occassions and/or business meetings and a regular dining area for everyday use, so I would encourage you to do it.

Patrons generally like to sit in smaller dining areas and having two separate areas also gives you the opportunity to hold events where patrons need a little privacy for special occassions or a place to conduct business during dinner.

We have three separate dining areas in the Old Bank Bistro and all of them get used quite frequently. Our first area near the front entrance is the most casual and the courtyard dining room is probably the most popular. Our third dining area is for overflow dining on busy nights and also when reserved. It is our most private area where we hold many business meetings through the week and private functions such as birthday parties and anniversaries most weekends.

Our busiest time for these special events is through the month of December, when all three dining rooms are filled to capacity for lunch and dinner. So when you plan your dining room layout, you may want to divide your space to allow for more flexibility as we have.

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Q: Are the police scamming me?

Ed Smith

A If you or someone you know has received notification on your computer from the "Police" or "RCMP" Cybercrime Unit, **DON'T FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS!** They are simply scammers holding your computer hostage, looking to get money for nothing, . Please seek expert computer help!

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Ask The Accountant

Q: I have a successful business and want to retire within five years, what should I be doing?

A: The timing of the sale of your business is critical. You can achieve a higher price during a period of growth and prosperity. The economy appears to be emerging from the recent recession and the next five years may provide opportunities for business sales and successions. With an aging population business succession planning is becoming a real concern and a significant challenge. It is expected that in the next ten years 550,000 businesses will change ownership: either succeed to family members or be sold. More than half of these businesses do not have a formal transition plan or exit strategy and many do not even have a successor. You should be working towards a transition plan with a lawyer, accountant and banker several years in advance of a planned retirement. This is the key to ensuring a successful continuity of your business and maximizing price.

Kenneth D. Lenchyshyn
CGA, ALA, CFE

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If you are finding yourself overwhelmed with credit card debt please contact Patti, Maureen or Beth to discuss whether a consolidation loan may be in your best interest.

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ASK THE EXPERT

Larry Graber

Q: What government assistance is available for starting a new business?

A: The Ontario Self-Employment Benefit Program is funded in part by the Government of Canada. It is a great opportunity for entrepreneurs considering starting a new business. This program is a tool to help individuals create jobs for themselves through self-employment, by providing Income Support, Business Plan Development, and Mentoring. You may be eligible if you are unemployed and have an established claim for Employment Insurance benefits (E.I.); or had a claim within the past 3 years, or a maternity or paternity claim within the past 5 years, and are looking to re-enter the labour force.

The Business Success & Loan Centre Fort Erie (BSL) has been delivering this program to successful applicants living in the Greater Fort Erie area since 1993. For more information contact

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Ultimate fishing town

Ultimate Fishing Town, a TV show on the World Fishing Network (WFN) is seeking the world's best fishing town.

Fort Erie is in the running to win a prize of $25,000, or one of eight $3,500 prizes to be used for fishing related causes along with an awareness and tourism boost with a feature of the town aired on the WFN.

Fort Erie is in competition with nearly 700 towns in the U.S. and Canada received nominations and are also eligible to become the next Ultimate Fishing Town.

Anyone can vote for his or her town of choice at UltimateFishingTown.com up to four times in one 24-hour period. Earn up to eight extra bonus votes by referring a friend through email and sharing on Facebook and Twitter (Twitter and Facebook each give you an extra vote, while referring a friend via E-mail gives you six.)

"We're excited by the positive response we've seen for Ultimate Fishing Town during the nomination phase and look forward to that passion and enthusiasm carrying over to the first voting phase," said Senior Director of Marketing for WFN, Pam Stinson in a press release.

"Now we really get to see their spirit shine as people rally around their town and take great pride in showcasing their community."

Ultimate Fishing Town has been divided into eight regions for 2013 with three in Canada and five in the U.S. Regional finalists will be presented to voters on Friday, May 3. Public voting for those honors begins at 12 p.m. MT on May 3 and runs through 11:59 a.m. MT on Friday, May 24.

The community with the most votes in each country will win a $25,000 prize to be invested in fishing related causes in the community, as well as eight $3,500 regional prizes that will be awarded for the same purpose.

WFN will announce the Ultimate Fishing Town for the U.S. and Canada and the regional winners on or about Tuesday, June 4

Currently Fort Erie has nearly 600 votes, and the top spot is held by our neighboring city Port Colborne which has 17,600 votes.

Y'all Come Back Saloon Opry

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Saturday May 11th at 8 p.m.
Roselawn Centre, Port Colborne, Ontario
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Different fire stations offer expertise in varying fields

Kris Dubé
Editor

It's rare for the Fort Erie Fire Department (FEFD) to be called out for a water rescue, but that doesn't mean they aren't prepared.

Last weekend, firefighters could be found doing training exercises along the shore of the Niagara River, practicing what captain of station no. 6 Ritch Lowell described as a 'go-type rescue.'

This is when firefighters make direct contact with a patient in a body of water, rather than feeding them a rope or something else to grab onto from the shore or a water vessel.

"It's a more high-risk maneuver," said Lowell.

Firefighters are tethered to the shore or one of the department's rescue boats when these exercises are conducted.

Although the FEFD isn't the only emergency service in the region that does this, they are certainly one of the few.

"A lot of other departments just do shore-based rescue," said Lowell.

All stations in the local fire department do not conduct go-type training due to varying qualifications and equipment.

The new fire company of Central Avenue, along with stations three and six are the only ones that practice this type of drill and would be called to act on their training in a real-life emergency.

Also, stations five and two are the halls that are called to a scene anywhere in Greater Fort Erie if the jaws of life are needed.

Lowell said it isn't often that fire department personnel is required for a water rescue although in the winter months, there are instances when animals need the expertise of local firefighters.

See Page 17

Members of the Fort Erie Fire Department conducting water rescue training in the Niagara River recently.

Ensure spring isn't the only one who's arrived.

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After serving sentence, Purdie will not be allowed to enter United States

From Page 9

"He has left the police department in disgrace," said Greenman, adding not only has Purdie lost his $80,000 a year job, but has "tarnished the badge and there's no turning back."

Greenman said he had no answer as to why his client did what he did, except perhaps for a bit of greed.

> **He has fallen and it's been a long fall."**
> — *Herb Greenman*

"He has fallen and it's been a long fall," said Greenman.

Following the sentencing, Purdie was given a few minutes to say good-bye to family members before he was taken into custody.

Niagara Regional Police Chief Jeff McGuire attended the court proceedings.

Outside of the courtroom, McGuire said this has been a difficult situation for all concerned, including the police service and Purdie's family.

McGuire said "we don't know why" Purdie did what he did, but he made a poor decision and now he regrets it.

After Purdie finishes serving his sentence in a U.S. jail, he will be deported back to Canada and is not allowed to re-enter the United States without authority given from Homeland Security.

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- Services provided: Manual Therapy, rehabilitation services, excercise therapy, workplace injuries rehabilitation, motor vehicle accident rehabilitation, mechanical traction, graston technique, personal training, pre & post operative care, sports injury rehabilitation, t-zone vibration exercise, soft tissue mobilization, acupuncture, laser therapy and aquatic therapy
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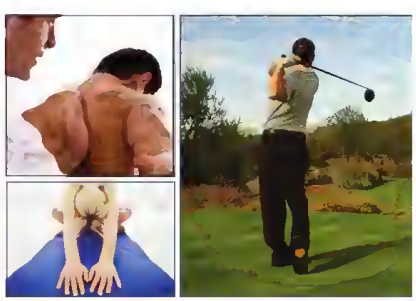

We would like to extend a heart felt thank you to everyone for all the non-stop support as we continue to grow our clinic and services.

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** TAX NOTICE **

TOWN OF FORT ERIE 2013 INTERIM TAXES
FOR ALL PROPERTY CLASSES
SECOND INSTALLMENT DUE TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2013

For further information regarding payment of taxes,
please refer to the back of your tax bill.

2013 interim tax bills were mailed on February 7, 2013

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday

Monthly payment plans by pre-authorized bank withdrawal are available for accounts with past due taxes and current year taxes. For information contact:
Town of Fort Erie at (905) 871-1600

Gillian Corney
Manager of Revenue & Collections

Infrastructure Services

SPRING STREET SWEEPING

The post-winter cleanup of sand will begin on Town streets as of April 22, 2013 and will continue until the first week of May. The street sweeping operation will consist of mechanical sweepers and water trucks where required, accompanied by Town staff.

Curbed streets within the Town of Fort Erie will be swept.

This sweeping will be conducted in daytime hours with the exception of business districts as detailed below. If you see the sweeping operation in your area, please remove vehicles parked on the roadway. Caregivers and school staff are asked to ensure that children stay clear of this operation.

Business districts will be swept in the early morning hours during the week of April 22nd. People are asked to refrain from overnight parking on curbed streets in these business areas during this week.

Prior to the sweepers coming through (where sand is still visible on the roadway), property owners are encouraged to sweep sidewalks and driveways onto the road.

For further information, please contact the Operations Division at 905-871-1600, Ext. 2466.

ATTENTION RESIDENTS:

The Town's Municipal Law Enforcement Department would like to remind residents of Lot Maintenance By-Law 165-08, particularly section 4(1):

Other than on properties zoned for agricultural operations, turf must be kept trimmed to a maximum length of 20 centimetres (6 inches), including the grassy boulevard portion of any highway or part thereof, in front of alongside or at the rear of any building or property.

Residents are reminded to cut and maintain their lawns to a maximum height of six (6) inches throughout the spring and summer seasons. Municipal Law Enforcement Officers will be enforcing this By-Law during this time. Failure to comply with this By-Law may result in the Town having the grass cut at the owner(s) expense.

Enquiries may be made to Municipal Law Enforcement Officers: Geoff Stephenson (Extension 2216) and Matt Richardson (Extension 2215).

Model competing in prestigious pageant

Kris Dubé
Editor

A model from Fort Erie is hoping her hometown and the Niagara Region will support her journey leading up to and during the Miss Canada Globe 2013 pageant.

Lauren Roy, 24, started getting serious about her modeling career last August when she signed with a Toronto-based agency and began booking regular shoots with professional fashion photographers to build her portfolio.

Earlier this year, she was invited by representatives from Miss Canada Globe to participate in this year's event and to start, will represent Niagara.

The runway for the prestigious model contest will open in August in Toronto and the graduate of Ridgeway-Crystal Beach High School is certainly looking forward to making a name for herself.

"I was definitely really excited because this pageant doesn't just focus on looks, it judges you as a whole person," said Roy, who expects to continue working with various charities and non-profit organizations as she prepares for the big event.

"I want to keep getting involved in the community and make positive changes," she said.

Roy grew up in Greater Fort Erie but currently works with The Dreamcatcher Charitable Foundation, which is a registered charity designated to provide support and address situations unique to aboriginal communities, located in Six Nations.

She hopes to go far into the competition and share her beliefs with everyone who pays attention and set an example for females everywhere, that even if you have your own personal challenges and struggles in your life, you can be anything you want to be and do anything you aspire to do if you work hard at it.

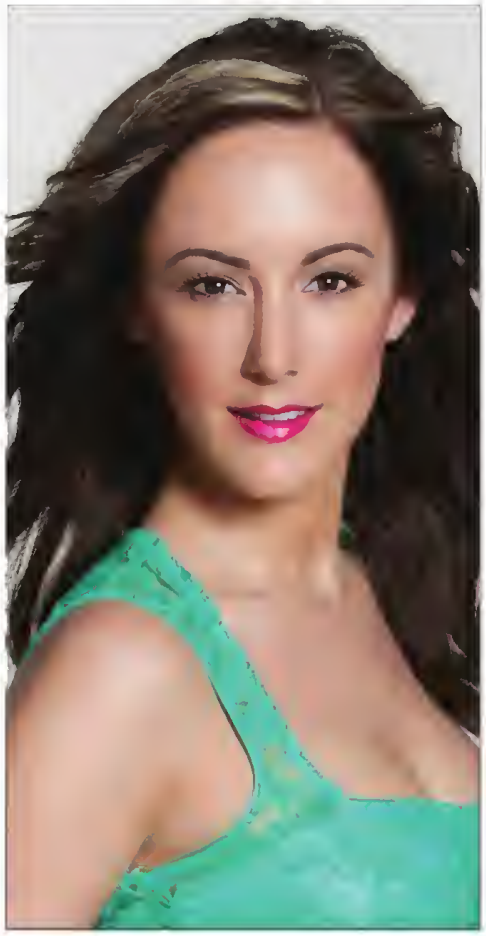
"I want to inspire young women and and show that this pageant is about more than just beauty, how one person can make a difference and encourage them with my story," said Roy, who is also a graduate of Niagara College's business program.

Although she is confident that she will turn heads and impress people at the pageant, it still comes with a not-so-pretty price tag to compete.

Registration alone is $3,000 and she anticipates having to raise roughly another $2,000 to cover the cost of gowns, cosmetics and other accessories.

Leading up to the first round of the pageant, Roy plans to hold a number of fundraising events to support her journey.

Anyone interested in lending help in any way is asked to send her an email at lauren.roy@live.ca.



DAVID HOU PHOTOGRAPHY Submitted Photo
Fort Erie model Lauren Roy, 24, will be competing in the Miss Canada Globe 2013 pageant.

'It's been a few years'

From Page 13

"We end up going out on the ice for dogs more than anything," said Lowell.

Fire companies one and two on Central Avenue along with station six are in charge of rescue boat missions.

Lowell said that sometimes these units are called out to Lake Erie or the Niagara River for boaters in distress that may be having difficulty due to hitting rocks in the water.

"For an actual live rescue of a patient, it's been a few years thankfully," said Lowell.

He said the most recent serious incident the department's water rescue unit has responded to was last summer, when a male died after jumping from a flag pole off the pier in Crystal Beach.

Larry Coplen, chief of the FEFD, said firefighters are faced with unique situations regularly and even though having to make a rescue on a natural body of water is something that doesn't happen frequently, it's crucial for everyone to be up to speed.

"There are a lot of things we don't do very often, but when we do them we need to be prepared," said Coplen.

Earth lessons

Our Lady of Victory School students learned about many environmentally-friendly topics on Earth Day, including the importance of recycling organics.

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'Every day should be Earth Day'

BRAYDEN MCCULLAGH Special to Fort Erie Times

One of the goats brought to Ridgeway Crystal Beach High School to demonstrate their ability to keep lawns trim in a more ecologically friendly way.

Brayden McCullagh
Special to Fort Erie Times

In celebration of Earth Day Ridgeway Crystal Beach High School (RCBHS) held its second annual Environmental Fair.

The event hosted by RCBHS in collaboration with local non-profit organization Friends of Fort Erie's Creeks consisted of booths set up in the school cafeteria by organizations like the Niagara College Environmental Technician program, the Niagara Community Awareness and Emergency Response Group, the Bert Miller Nature Club, and even live goats outside demonstrating environmental lawn care as well as other local organizations and businesses.

Students had a chance to talk with representatives from the groups, schools and organizations to find out more about careers in the field, placement opportunities and the benefits of being environmentally conscious.

Bill Connor, the teacher who helped organize the event on behalf of RCBHS says the event is a great opportunity for students to gain awareness about different local environmental and community groups.

"We would like to do it every year and the plan is to move it around from place to place, maybe NCC and some of the private schools."

RCBHS students are also going out in the community to help clean up the environment by working with the Peace Bridge Authority cleaning the friendship trail, as well as working with both Niagara College students and the Niagara Restoration Council on restoration projects.

Friends of Fort Erie's Creeks (FOFEC), a non-profit organization that are committed to the protection, restoration and improvement of the local waterscape are working with RCBHS to help provide an outlet for students to help.

"I would like the kids to be more enviromentally aware of their surroundings. Everyday should be an Earth Day" says FOFEC's program coordinator Frank Genze.

Genze says FOFEC is a perfect place for students to get their co-op hours.

"We had three students from RCBHS last year that worked with us thoughout the summer and they got other students involved. That's the whole idea of this is to get all kids from the Fort Erie involved."

Students of RCBHS are also excited about the idea of helping the environment and how it impacts them. Eric Grimm, a Gr. 12 student of RCBHS who worked with FOFEC in the summer of 2012 says the co-op helped him with early acceptance to Trent University.

"I've had the fortunate opportunity to go to numerous restoration projects. It's been a lot of fun I've learned quite a bit and it's definitely helped me in my field."

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KRIS DUBÉ Fort Erie Times

Niagara Falls resident Johannes Chapman, better known as 'Yo,' stands in front of the Sanctuary in Ridgeway last Saturday. He is the founder of Singing Canary, a company that produces 100 per cent legal hemp seeds that are sold as a healthy snack. The evening at the Sanctuary was headlined by Rose Garland, a Grateful Dead cover band.

Police don't allow leniency on day for pot smokers

From Page 6

Thankfully we don't have any full-scale rallies in Greater Fort Erie and put up with people like the guy I just characterized.

The Niagara Regional Police's district no. 5 staff sergeant Dave Hunter said there were no calls on the weekend related to public marijuana use.

He said enforcement is the same as it is any other day of the year and that the police don't allow any type of leniency.

"If we responded to a call and found people were in possession of illegal amounts, then we would deal with that accordingly," said Hunter.

The only person that can be in possession of marijuana legally is someone who has it prescribed for a medical condition.

Any person without proper documentation that is found in possession of 30 grams of marijuana or less can charged with a summary conviction.

Being in possession of 30 grams or more is considered an indictable offence.

> **"If we responded to a call and found people were in possession of illegal amounts, we would deal with that and act accordingly."**
>
> *— Staff sergeant Dave Hunter*

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Family Storytime
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The Spinners and Weavers of Niagara will be demonstrating their skills throughout the Centennial branch of the library on Saturday, April 27 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Everyone is invited to come, to watch, to ask questions and to enjoy seeing traditional skills in practice. Free.

Born to Read
An early literacy program for babies from birth to 'just about walking' age. Call to register for the May sessions, which will be held on Tuesday mornings at 11 a.m. at the Centennial branch. $5 for 4 weeks.

Tiny Tales
An early literacy program for two to four year olds. Call to register for the May sessions, which will be held on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. from May 8 through May 29 at Crystal Ridge. $5 for four weeks.

Family Literacy Event
For families with little ones from birth through grade three. Saturday, May 4, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Leisureplex, Town Hall and YMCA. Free and fun for the whole family.

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Bright lights for bright students at Niagara Christian Community of Schools

BRAYDEN MCCULLAGH Special to Fort Erie Times

Niagara Christian Community of Schools runs through one last rehearsal of their play "A Day In The Life," a musical based on the lives of NCCS students.

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To everyone who graciously donated their "Gently Loved" purses (over 400 in total) and purchased raffle tickets.

To the Atrium staff who so tirelessly and generously gave of their time (Beth, Lauren and Velvet too!)

To Beatties Basics for your most appreciated charitable support

To Rebecca from Nigh's Chocolates for the most endearing little purse shaped chocolates And last but not least,

To my two beautiful friends Beth and Nancy who have so fearlessly survived cancer and continue to move mountains!!!

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Valerie Fyke, Atrium Spa

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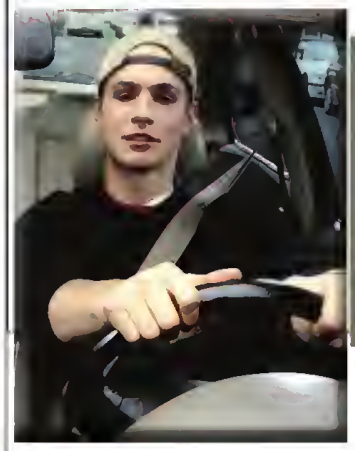

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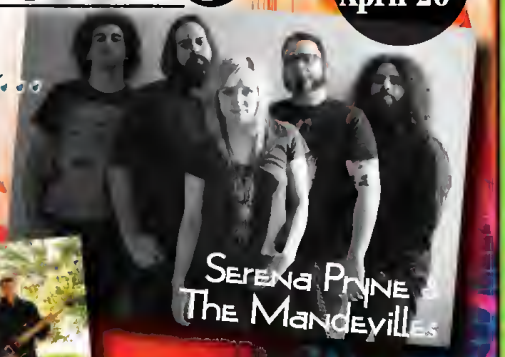

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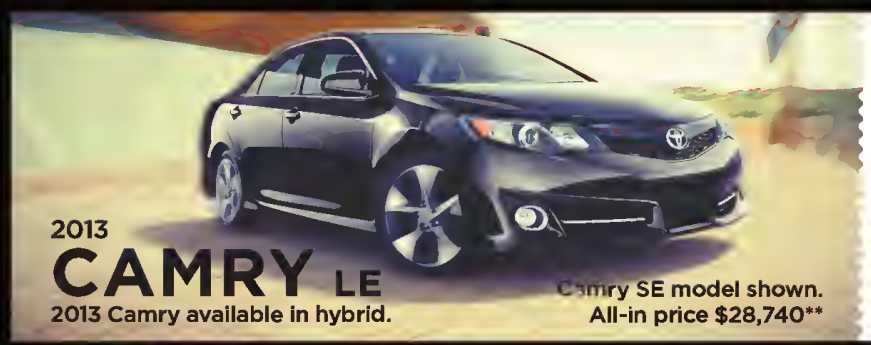

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Limited time lease and finance offers available from Toyota Financial Services on approved credit. **All-in price of a new 2013 Camry SE (Model BF1FSTA) is $28,740. All-in price includes freight and fees (PDE, EHF, OMVIC fee and air condition tax, where applicable). HST, licensing, registration and insurance are extra. Dealer may sell for less. *All-in price of a new 2013 Camry LE (Model BF1FLTA)/2013 Corolla CE Manual (Model BU42EMA)/2013 Matrix Manual (Model KU4EEMA) is $25,455/$17,005/$18,350. All-in price includes freight and fees (PDE, EHF, OMVIC fee and air condition tax, where applicable). HST, licensing, registration and insurance are extra. Dealer may sell for less. ¥0.9%/0.9%/0.9% purchase finance APR on a new 2013 Camry LE (Model BF1FLTA)/2013 Corolla CE Manual (Model BU42EMA)/2013 Matrix Manual (Model KU4EEMA for 72/84/84 months equals a bi-weekly payment of $168/$91/$98 for 156/182/182 bi-weekly payments with a down payment or trade equivalent of $0/$0/$0, when you apply the $0/$1,000/$1,000 Customer Incentive. Cost of borrowing is $703/$515/$559, for a total obligation of $26,158/$16,520/$17,908. ♦Representative lease example based on an All-in price of $20,000. All-in price includes freight and fees (PDE, EHF, OMVIC fee and air condition tax, where applicable). HST, licensing, registration and insurance are extra. 0.0% lease APR on an all-in price of $20,000 for 60 months, equals a monthly payment of $207 with a $0 down payment or trade equivalent. First monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $12,400. All-in lease includes freight and fees (PDE, EHF, OMVIC fee and air condition tax, where applicable). HST, licensing, registration and insurance are extra. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Based on a maximum of 100,000KM. Additional KM charge of $0.07 for excess kilometres, if applicable. ◊$1,000/$1,000 Customer Incentive on a new, unregistered, 2013 Corolla CE Manual/2013 Matrix Manual is valid on Toyota retail delivery (excluding fleet sales) when leased, financed or purchased from an Ontario Toyota dealership. Customer Incentives include tax and will be applied after taxes have been charged on the full amount of the negotiated price. Vehicles receiving Customer Incentives must be purchased, registered and delivered between April 5 and April 30, 2013. ΩDealer Fees may be added and may be comprised of Administration/Documentation fees, VIN Etching, anti-theft products, cold weather packages or other fees. Fees may vary by Dealer. Offers are valid between April 5 and April 30, 2013, and are subject to change without notice. All rights are reserved. Dealer may sell for less. Please see your participating Ontario Toyota dealer for full details.

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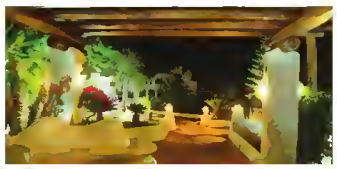

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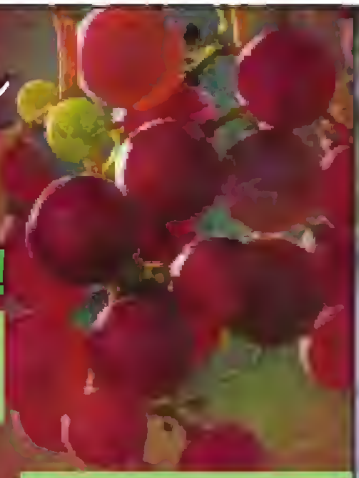

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1994 Stevensville Road, Stevensville

Police officer breaches bail conditions

A suspended Niagara Regional Police constable facing charges related to smuggling cheese into Canada has been charged with breaching his bail conditions.

The NRP said Tuesday Const. Scott Heron, one of three men arrested in September in relation to a large-scale smuggling scheme, breached a condition regarding possessing a cell phone or other electronic communication device.

Heron, who made an appearance Tuesday morning at St. Catharines bail court, is allowed to have one cell phone, but the number must be registered with the NRP and they have to be given detailed monthly statements.

After an eight-month investigation, Heron was charged on Sept. 27 with conspiracy to commit an indictable offence of smuggling goods and breach of trust, as well as Customs Act charges of false statements, evade compliance, keeping, acquiring or disposing of illegally imported goods and smuggling.

Heron has been suspended with pay by the NRP and his disciplinary hearing under the Police Services Act will resume once the criminal proceedings wrap up.

Mary-Lou Fitzgerald, a teacher at Fort Erie Elementary School, will be performing her music at the Roselawn Theatre on May 11.

Teacher by day, singer by night

Mary-Lou Fitzgerald to perform at Roselawn Theatre in May

Mary Lou Fitzgerald is a teacher at Fort Erie Elementary during the day and on May 11th is will be heading out to the Roselawn Centre in Port Colborne at night to perform.

Mary Lou hails from Louisville , KY, and settled in Niagara in 2005 and has been performing country and bluegrass music in the region since her arrival.

Mary Lou will be performing with the Peace River Band on the Y'all Come Back Saloon Opry with other performers which include Marty West, Angela Siracusa, the new Grant Carson Band, Canadian All-Star Fiddle Champion Aaron Solomon and bagpiper Gary Reeves.

The show is May 11 at the Roselawn Centre in Port Colborne at 8 p.m. Tickets can be purchased by phoning the box office at 905-834-7572.

Kerry Passero, left, receiving the William Henry Memorial Cup from Patricia McMullen, Treasurer for the Lifesaving Society of Ontario. Passero accepted the award on behalf of the aquatics program offered at Fort Erie Secondary School.

Aquatics program gets top honour

The aquatics programs offered at Fort Erie Secondary School (FESS) recently earned a prestigious award from The Lifesaving Society of Ontario.

The William Henry Memorial Cup was awarded to FESS and it is given each year to the affiliated Ontario secondary school with the largest lifesaving program. Points are awarded to schools based on the level of difficulty of the courses offered as well as the amount of hours required to attain each certification.

FESS is one of the few high schools outside of the Greater Toronto Area with its own swimming pool, and students have the ability to enrol in aquatic courses like Bronze Star, Bronze Medallion, Bronze Cross and the National Lifeguard course as well as an array of CPR and First Aid courses.

Swim to Survive courses are also offered to students of elementary schools including those with special needs.

In the past four years more than 30 FESS students have earned their complete National Lifeguard Certification both for recreational and employment purposes.

Rylee Barber, a past participant in the program strongly believes in its value saying "the ability to learn lifesaving techniques, achieve nationally recognized aquatic certifications, and achieve a Grade 12 phys-ed credit all at the same time. "This program is one of a kind and also helped me get a job as a lifeguard," she said.

-See Page 28

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TENDER

2013-T-113 (RN 13-13)
2013 Structural Rehabilitation Program (Region-wide)

Sealed tenders, plainly marked as to contents, will be received by the office of the Regional Clerk, Niagara Region, 2201 St. David's Rd., Thorold, ON, until 2 p.m. local time on **Tuesday, May 7, 2013.**

The work to be carried out under this contract consists of, but is not limited to, the rehabilitation of the following structures:

- Killins Bridge (Structure No. 014225)
- Fifteen Mile Creek Bridge (Structure No. 024210)
- Four Mile Creek Bridge (Structure No. 087220)
- Niagara Street Bridge (Structure No. 0S020S)
- Emerson Bridge (Structure No. 084215)
- Montrose Road Culvert (Structure No. 098310)

This contract utilizes the **"Niagara Peninsula Standard Contract Document" (Revision 13)** which forms the specification documents excepting the "Special Instructions to Bidders, Form of Tender, and Supplementary Special Provisions." The "Standard Document" is available on the Internet at the "Bid Opportunities" section of the Niagara Region website, **www.niagararegion.ca.**

Plans, specifications, and Form of Tender may be obtained from Niagara Region Public Works, 2201 St. David's Rd., Thorold, ON. A non-refundable payment in the amount of **$25.00**, reflecting part of the cost of document preparation, will be required for each set of tender documents taken. Tender documents will be available for pickup **after NOON on Tuesday, April 23, 2013.** Plans and specifications may be viewed without charge, but not removed, at the major construction association offices.

All tenders must be accompanied by a tender deposit in the amount of **$100,000.**

Tenders will be publicly opened at 2:15 p.m. at 2201 St. David's Rd., Thorold. The lowest or any tender will not be necessarily accepted.

For further information, you may contact **Mr. Jason Marr, P. Eng.**, Senior Transportation Project Engineer at 905-685-4225 ext. 3552.

Thorold, Ontario
April 18, 2013

Kenneth J. Brothers, P.Eng., FIWA
Commissioner of Public Works

Niagara Region
/niagararegion www.niagararegion.ca @niagararegion

Surfs up!

DAVE JOHNSON QMI Agency Niagara

Surfer George Holmes, of the NOTL Surf Club, wipes out riding a wave on Lake Erie at a popular surfing spot in Fort Erie, Ont., on Saturday, April 20, 2013. Holmes, along with two other surfers and a body board rider, braved the cold and wind to ride the waves. Just before Holmes entered the water, he and the others were paid a visit by Niagara Regional Police. A concerned citizen had called police, worried that it was too cold for the surfers to be in the lake. The officer spoke with the surfers briefly and left to let them surf the waves. Surfers on Lake Erie and across the Great Lakes surf year round in all kinds of conditions and wear wetsuits that keep out the cold water.

Earning award was a school effort

From Page 27

Kerry Passero, a member of the FESS phys-ed department, lifeguard and swim coach, and the creator and facilitator of the program travelled to the Lifesaving Society's Annual General Meeting in Kitchener to accept the award.

With 3,180 points, FESS nearly doubled the second place finisher, a school in Toronto.

"This award is recognition not just of a great program that I am able to offer with the support of Ian Longmuir the Phys-Ed department head, and Helena Tritchew our principal, but also reflects the quality of students we have at the school," said Passero.

"These are not easy courses to complete nor easy certifications to achieve, and to be succeeding at a level that rivals schools across the province, I am proud of what we've been able to accomplish," she added.

2013 Dodge Journey R/T AWD shown.§

37 MPG HIGHWAY

2013 IIHS TOP SAFETY PICK

2013 DODGE JOURNEY CANADA VALUE PACKAGE
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PURCHASE PRICE INCLUDES $2,000 CONSUMER CASH;* FREIGHT, AIR TAX, TIRE LEVY AND OMVIC FEE. TAXES EXCLUDED. OTHER RETAILER CHARGES MAY APPLY.+

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2013 IIHS TOP SAFETY PICK

CONSUMERS DIGEST BEST BUY

2013 Dodge Grand Caravan Crew Plus shown.§

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Dodge.ca/Offers

+Your local retailer may charge additional fees for administration/pre-delivery that can range from $0 to $1,098 and anti-theft/safety products that can range from $0 to $1,298. Charges may vary by retailer.

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DODGE RAM

Less Fuel. More Power. Great Value is a comparison between the 2013 and the 2012 Chrysler Canada product lineups as applicable. 40 MPG or greater claim (7.0 L/100 km) based on 2013 EnerGuide highway fuel consumption estimates. Government of Canada test methods used. Your actual fuel consumption will vary based on powertrain, driving habits and other factors. See retailer for additional EnerGuide details. ¤2013 Dodge Journey 2.4 L with 4-speed automatic – Hwy: 7.7 L/100 km (37 MPG) and City: 11.2 L/100 km (25 MPG). 2013 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package – Hwy: 7.9 L/100 km (36 MPG) and City: 12.2 L/100 km (23 MPG). Wise customers read the fine print: ◊, €, •, *, †, ‡, § The Load Up On Value Event offers are limited time offers which apply to retail deliveries of selected new and unused models purchased from participating retailers on or after April 2, 2013. Offers subject to change and may be extended without notice. All pricing includes freight ($1,595), air tax (if applicable), tire levy and OMVIC fee. Pricing excludes licence, insurance, registration, any retailer administration fees, other retailer charges and other applicable fees and taxes. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailer may sell for less. ◊Ultimate Journey Package Discounts available at participating retailers on the purchase of a new 2013 Dodge Journey R/T with Ultimate Journey Package (JCES49 28X with AGV, AV1, AS4, GWG). Discount consists of: $2,500 in Bonus Cash that will be deducted from the negotiated price after taxes, and (ii) $1,125 in no-cost options that will be deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. Some conditions apply. See your retailer for complete details. €$5,625 in Total Savings are available on the new 2013 Dodge Journey R/T model and consist of $2,000 Consumer Cash Discount and $3,625 in Ultimate Journey Package Savings. $10,275 in Cash Discounts are available on the new 2013 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT model and consist of $7,000 Consumer Cash Discount and $3,275 in Ultimate Family Package Savings. See your retailer for complete details. •$19,995 Purchase Price applies to the new 2013 Dodge Journey Canada Value Package (22F) only and includes $2,000 Consumer Cash Discount. $19,995 Purchase Price applies to the new 2013 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package (29E) and includes $8,100 Consumer Cash Discount. *Consumer Cash Discounts are offered on select 2013 vehicles and are deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. †4.49% purchase financing for up to 96 months available on the new 2013 Dodge Journey Canada Value Package (22F)/2013 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package (29E) models to qualified customers on approved credit through Royal Bank of Canada, Scotiabank and TD Auto Finance. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Retailer may sell for less. See your retailer for complete details. Examples: 2013 Dodge Journey Canada Value Package (22F)/2013 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package (29E) with a Purchase Price of $19,995/$19,995 (including Consumer Cash Discount) financed at 4.49% over 96 months with $0 down payment, equals 208 bi-weekly payments of $115/$115 with a cost of borrowing of $3,843/$3,843 and a total obligation of $23,837.61/$23,837.61. ‡Ultimate Family Package Discounts available at participating retailers on the purchase of a new 2013 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT with Ultimate Family Package (RTKH5329G). Discount consists of: (i) $2,500 in Bonus Cash that will be deducted from the negotiated price after taxes, and (ii) $775 in no-cost options that will be deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. Some conditions apply. See your retailer for complete details. §2013 Dodge Journey R/T AWD shown. Price including applicable Consumer Cash Discount: $31,640. 2013 Dodge Grand Caravan Crew Plus shown. Price including applicable Consumer Cash Discount: $31,940. ^Based on 2013 Ward's Middle Cross Utility segmentation. The Best Buy Seal is a registered trademark of Consumers Digest Communications LLC, used under license. ®Jeep is a registered trademark of Chrysler Group LLC. ™The SiriusXM logo is a registered trademark of SiriusXM Satellite Radio Inc.**

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DODGE CARAVAN KIDS
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Local man charged with child–porn–related offences

A Fort Erie man has been arrested and charged with child pornography-related offences.

Niagara Regional Police was contacted about a child-pornography allegation in October.

Police executed a search warrant on several computer systems and devices, which an NRP press release claims revealed evidence of child pornography.

On Wednesday, 56-year-old Roy Harvey, of Fort Erie, was arrested and charged with one count each of accessing child pornography and possession of child pornography.

Harvey is being held in custody pending a bail hearing in St. Catharines.

Police urge anyone with information to call them at 905-688-4111, ext. 5100. To leave an anonymous tip or information, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477, www.crimestoppersofniagara.com or by texting a message to 274637 with the text reading Niagara and then the message.

The public can also report suspicious online activities involving children at www.cybertips.ca.

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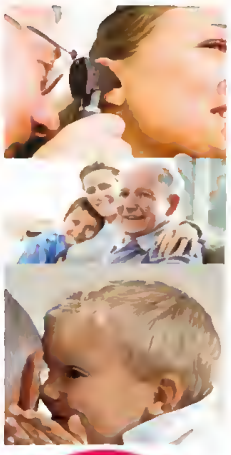

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Flea market on Saturday

The community is invited to a flea market at the All Saints Anglican Church on Sat. Apr. 27 from 9 a.m. until noon.

There will be clean household items, chinaware, knick-knacks, jewelry and books.

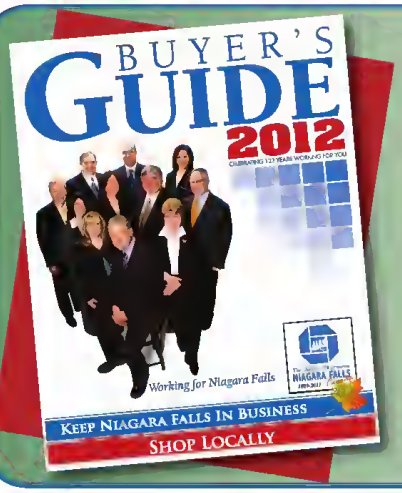
The church is located at 149 South Mill St in Ridgeway.

Yard sale for Gilmore Lodge

The Gilmore Lodge Auxiliary wants you to support its yard sale, being held on May 4.

The event will start at 9 a.m. and end at 1 p.m., located at 50 Gilmore Rd.

For more information, call (905) 871-3283



2013 Buyer's Guide

Presented by The Chamber of Commerce, Niagara Falls, Canada

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The Chamber of Commerce NIAGARA FALLS Canada

For information on joining contact:
Al MacNevin 905-374-3666 or al@niagarafallschamber.com

Hardest part of dealing with accident is being treated differently

From Page 5

"I tell you this because it's not just the obvious things that take a lot of work."

Despite her injuries and challenges she said she has lived a great life.

"I saw kids who were worse off than me while I was in the rehabilitation centre. They had severe brain injuries. I just want to remind you guys that you can't fix brain or spine injuries," she said.

Though she doesn't remember the crash that left her a paraplegic, she knows a lot of details about it. The driver who hit them, crossed the "stupid line" or risk taking. He had been drinking since 9 a.m., and the crash took place nearly 12 hours later. He had two of his best friends in the car who realized how reckless his driving was and got out of the car, two hours from their home because of the dangerous situation. After his friends were unable to convince him not to drive, they knocked on doors until someone let them in to call police - by that time it was too late, the crash had already happened. Her younger sister, who was four at the time of the crash, did not sustain permanent injuries, but her mom was trapped in the car for over an hour and a half, which contributed to her death.

She has never seen the driver, but does know his name.

"He didn't apologize, I know if I had done that to someone's family I would want to apologize, but I don't know how he handles it. He has to live with the consequences of what he did everyday. Some really good people make bad choices."

"Not a day goes by where I don't miss my mom. The driver spent a couple months in jail and lost his license for awhile."

She said the hardest part of the ordeal hasn't been being in a wheelchair, but the way people treat her because she's in a wheelchair.

"When people see me in a wheelchair they automatically treat me differently, they act like I can't handle anything on my own."

> **"When people see me in a wheelchair, they automatically treat me differently, they act like I can't handle anything on my own."**
>
> *— Melissa Hague*

Reaching out to teenagers regarding risk can be a difficult task, as many feel like it will never happen to them.

No Regrets Live wasn't designed as a safety show. Typically when you ask a teenager about safety they will react with boredom or that it 'sucks.' Most safety programs tell teenagers what they are forbidden to do and warn them of the harsh consequences of disobeying. Because they believe they are invincible it's easy for them to not register the messages being given, according to Hague.

The program instead teaches students the importance of wearing the proper safety equipment, driving sober, whether it's in a vehicle or ATV, having the proper training for the task their performing and know where the 'stupid line' is.

In the DVD presentation when students were asked about risk taking, they spoke of how it's fun, makes you feel free. For adrenaline junkies it's exciting.

The program talked to teens about preventing injuries and saving lives. Injuries are the leading cause of death in Canada among youths. Motor vehicle accidents are the number one cause of death among youth.

"We're here today to help you guys make better choices. When I leave here today, your safety and your life is all yours, I just hope nothing like this happens to you," said Hague.

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The Chamber of Commerce NIAGARA FALLS Canada

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BRIDGEBURG STATION
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Request for Pricing Information
#BBIA2013
Watering of Hanging Baskets & Flowers for Various Local Business Improvement Areas

Sealed requests for quotation clearly marked as to content, will be received by Veronica Landry, Manager of Historic Bridgeburg Business Improvement Association, until *Thursday, May 9th, 2:00pm*.

Quotations are to be sealed within your own envelope and clearly identified as "Response to RFPI #BBIA2013 and delivered to
Bridgeburg Business Association,
23 Jarvis Street, Fort Erie, L2A 2S3.
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8am - 3pm

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Garage Sales Flea Markets

Yard Sale - 50 Gilmore Rd.
Sat. May 4th, 9am to 1pm
Rain or Shine
Sponsored by Gilmore Aux.
Coffee Shop Open
Proceeds to help our residents for special needs, gifts and parties.
Donations appreciated. Info: 905-871-3283

FLEA MARKET
All Saints' Anglican Church
149 South Mill St., Ridgeway
Sat., April 27th 9am - 12 noon
Household items including china, knick-knacks, Jewellery, and books.

Miscellaneous

BARGAIN PRICES
Used: Furniture, Appliances, clothing, linens and household items.
We pick up usable furniture every Saturday
St. Vincent De Paul
36 Jarvis St. 905-871-0203

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HUGE
FORT ERIE - 407 Lakeside Road Sat. Apr. 27th Come Early! Youth Sports Equip. Toys, Boardgames, China, purses, jewelry, shoes, plus size Women's clothing & much more
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Huge Garage Sale, Something for Everyone, Sat 27th & Sun 28th 9am - ? Rain or Shine 71 Crooks St. Fort Erie

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All in stock **Spring Fashion, Quilting, Home Decor & Basic Fabrics** **40% Off** Our Regular Price

All in Stock **Print Flannelette** 42"wide -100% Cotton **50% Off** Our Regular Price To $10.00/m

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Jobs

NOTICE OF STUDY COMPLETION

Central Avenue Bridge
(Structure No. 124205)
Municipal Class Environmental Assessment

The Study
Niagara Region has completed a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) Study for the Central Avenue Bridge in the Town of Fort Erie (see map). The study was conducted in accordance with the requirements for a Schedule "C" project stipulated in the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) document (approved October 2000, as amended in 2007 and 2011, under the terms of the *Environmental Assessment Act*).

The Class EA study has recommended that the Central Avenue Bridge be replaced and that traffic during construction be managed within the Central Avenue corridor. These recommendations follow two public information centres which collectively presented background information, alternative planning solutions/design concepts, the preferred planning solutions/design concept, gateway features, staging for 'rapid construction' and traffic management, and mitigation measures for anticipated environmental effects.

Recommended Design and Construction/Traffic Staging
The recommended design is a new three-span continuous steel girder bridge with a composite concrete deck slab supported on two piers within the CNR right-of-way.

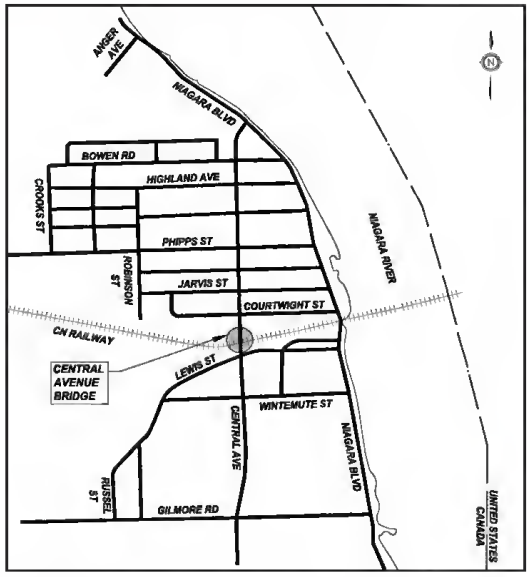
The recommended construction/traffic staging is:
- Build a new bridge superstructure on temporary piers beside the existing bridge and jack it laterally into place to retain the same Central Avenue horizontal alignment
- For most of construction, manage traffic within the Central Avenue corridor at different stages in either alternating one way directions or both directions
- While the new bridge is jacked into place, detour traffic onto local roads

Environmental Study Report
An Environmental Study Report (ESR) has been prepared to document the planning process followed, including conclusions and recommendations, and how public input was received and considered. The ESR will be available for public review for a period of 30 calendar days, starting on April 22, 2013 and ending on May 21, 2013 at the following locations:

Niagara Region
Clerk's Office
2201 St. David's Rd.
Thorold, ON
Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Town of Fort Erie
Clerk's Office
1 Municipal Centre Dr.
Fort Erie, ON
Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Town of Fort Erie Library - Centennial Branch
136 Gilmore Rd.
Fort Erie, ON
Hours: Monday-Wednesday 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Thursday 1 - 9 p.m., Friday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sunday Closed



Comments
If you have comments, you are requested to provide them in writing to Mr. Jason Marr (see below) by May 21, 2013. If you have concerns regarding this project that cannot be resolved, you may request that the Minister of the Environment make an order for the project to comply with Part II of the Environmental Assessment Act (commonly referred to as a Part II Order), which addresses individual environmental assessments. If you wish to request a Part II Order, it must be submitted by May 21, 2013 to the Honourable Jim Bradley, Minister of the Environment, Ministry of the Environment, 77 Wellesley St. West, 11th Floor, Ferguson Block, Toronto ON M7A 2T5.

A copy of the Part II Order must also be sent to:

Mr. Jason Marr, P.Eng
Senior Transportation Project Engineer
Niagara Region, Transportation Engineering
2201 St. David's Rd.
Thorold, ON L2V 4T7
Telephone: 905-685-4225, ext. 3552
Fax: 905-685-0013
jason.marr@niagararegion.ca

Mr. Karl Grueneis
Senior Environmental Planner
AECOM
3-30 Hannover Dr.
St. Catharines, ON L2W 0A1
Telephone: 905-346-3732
Fax: 905-682-5812
karl.grueneis@aecom.com

Additional information related to the project and consultation process may be obtained through the study website: http://www.niagararegion.ca/living/roads/projects/central-ave/. Comments and information regarding this project are being collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act for the purpose of meeting environmental assessment requirements.

Niagara Region
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NOW HIRING

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS
The Niagara Catholic District School Board is currently seeking a pool of candidates for Early Childhood Educator positions, commencing in September, 2013.

Interested applicants are asked to complete an online application at
www.applytoeducation.com

The Fort Erie Times
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Birthdays

Lil' Bob Fraser
turns 60.

Open House
Sunday, April 28, 2013
2-5pm
Sherkston Community Centre
4893 Sherkston Rd.
Best Wishes Only!
Please Join Us.

Coming Events

ROAST BEEF DINNER
St. John's Stevensville
United Church
14789 Sodom Road, Snyder
Saturday, May 11th
Two Sittings: 5:00pm and 6:30pm
Adults $12 Children under 12 $5
For Tickets call 905-382-4645

ALZHEIMER Society Niagara Region Support Groups for Caregivers meets first Wed of each month(except July & Aug) 1:30-3pm Residence on Garrison 373 Garrison Rd. Fort Erie. 905-687-3914

FORT ERIE FESTIVALS
Annual General Meeting,
April 29th, 20 Lewis St., Fort Erie, 6 PM.
All members welcome - 905-871-6454

Obituaries

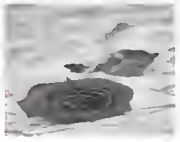
AYRES, Jay Ernest - of Port Colborne, died peacefully at home surrounded by his family on Friday April 19, 2013 in his 71st year. Beloved husband of the late Judith Ann (1992). Loving father of Julie of Stevensville. Jay Scott and his wife Colleen of Clayton N.C. Proud and beloved Papa to Alex, Max and Eli. Best friend to his faithful companion, his dog, Maggie. Brother to Chuck (Helen) Ayres, Ett (Jim) Moore, Jeff Ayres, Skip (Debbie) Ayres, Mindy (Harvey) Snider, Greg Ayres and Lori (John) Poirier. Jay was predeceased by his parents Ernie (1992) and Emily (2005) and his sister Candice. He will be fondly remembered by many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. In keeping with Jay's wishes cremation has taken place. Friends and guests are invited to join the family at **PLEASANTVIEW FUNERAL HOME** (Merrittville Hwy at the corner of Hwy #20) 905-892-1699 on Saturday April 27th from 11:00 am- 12:45 pm. A service to celebrate Jay's life will be held in the funeral home chapel at 1:00 pm with interment to follow. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the First Lutheran Church in Port Colborne, or the Welland District Humane Society (Port Colborne shelter) will be appreciated by his family. You are invited to share memories, photos and condolences on-line at www.pleasantviewcemetery.ca

Obituaries

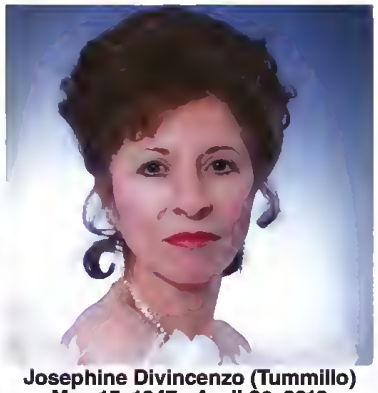
HOLT, James Russell "Snoofy" - Surrounded by his family, Jim passed away at the Douglas Memorial Hospital on Saturday April 20th, 2013 at the age of 77. Sadly missed by his partner Wanda Van Der Kraan. His loving children Doug, Brian (Donna Shipp), Sheila (Steve) Selman, Sharon (Robert) Johnston, and Denise (Brad) Bath. He was a wonderful Papa to Sean Selman, Jason Holt, Tanya Holt, Sheena Italia, Steven Italia, Anthony Italia, Ashley Johnston and Matthew Johnston and great grandchildren Caleb, Olivia, Cameron, Adrian, Shyanne, Calum and Ayden. Sadly missed by his siblings Stanley (Jean), Jack (Barbara), Eric (Virginia) Betty (Donny) Langille, Diane (Bob) McKenzie, Wanda and Donny. Fondly remembered by the members of the Wolbert family, his other extended family and many dear friends. Predeceased by his daughter Suzanne and his brother Scott. **BENNER FUNERAL SERVICES,** 1105 Benner Ave. entrusted with arrangements. The family will receive friends on Thursday April 25th from 2-4 & 7-9. Funeral Services will be held in the Benner Funeral Chapel on Friday morning at 11 o'clock. Reception to follow. If so desired, donations to the Canadian Liver Foundation would be appreciated by the family.

Coming Events

GROUP DOG OBEDIENCE CLASSES
Starting May 15th
Limited enrollment.
Contact
Judith Beam,
The Dog Lady
587-335-4468
The dog lady@hotmail.com
www.the-dog-lady.com



In Memoriams



Josephine Divincenzo (Tummillo)
May 15, 1947 - April 26, 2012
In loving memory of a dear wife, mother and nonna

Not ready to leave but has to go,
Wants to go back but God says no.
A husband and children,
Grandchildren and friends,
A meaningful life that suddenly ends.
An angel is what she was meant to be,
Now think of all that she can see.
Watching over her family night and day,
Saying I love you in her own special way.
In the night we sleep and in the day we cry,
While she watches us all from her star in the sky.
We miss you now, our hearts are sore,
As time goes by we miss you more.
Your loving smile, your gentle face,
No one can fill you vacant place.

Your loving husband Salvatore,
Steve, Francie, Tony, Anthony, Brianna,
Lillie, Sammy and family

Death Notices

PUTMAN John Garfield -Passed away peacefully into the arms of his Lord on Thursday April 18th, 2013 at Oakwood Park Lodge in N.F. at the age of 78. Loving son of Alice and Curtis Putman, siblings Art, Roy, Jim and Violet all deceased. John had many interesting jobs over his lifetime up until a couple of years ago when he retired. He was very active in Alcoholics Anonymous and the Adult Literacy Council of F.E. He loved the volunteering he did with these associations and letting people know that they could overcome anything that life threw at them. He leaves behind his niece Sandy (Thurlow) Mathewson, their children Jodi (Josef) Gutzmirtl, Julie and Steve (Amanda) Mathewson, his nephew David (Julie) Putman and his son David. The family wants to let the staff at Oakwood Park Lodge know how grateful we are for their loving care of John. A private family memorial will be held and donations can be made in his memory to the Adult Literacy Council of F.E.

In Memoriams

Michael Cooper "Cooper"
April 25, 2012
One year has come and gone
and so much has changed...

They say there is a reason,
They say that time will heal,
But neither time nor reason
Will change the way we feel.

For no-one knows the heartache,
That lies behind our smile,
No one know how many times
We have broke down and cried.

We want to tell you something,
So there won't be any doubt,
Your so wonderful to think of,
But so hard to live without.

We miss you so much!! We miss the way you made us laugh and smile all the time. Sadly missed, forever loved always, your sister Amy, Jenna, Kayla, Destiny & Tony
P.S. Happy Birthday!!!

In Memoriams

Michael Cooper
Daddy, I miss you very much and
I love you very much and
I love how you named me after your name.
Love Spazzy (your son Michael).

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In Memoriams **In Memoriams**

REAMAN, Doug
In loving memory of a dear Father, Grandfather and Great Grandfather who passed away April 24, 2005.

Loving memories never die
As the years and days pass by
In our hearts the memory is kept
Of the one we will never forget.

Lovingly remembered by
Judy, Ron, Alesha, Mark
Tyson and Carter

Carlos Mejia
In loving memory of our dear son, who passed away 1 year ago on April 28th, 2012.

You never said "I am leaving"
You never said goodbye
You were home before I knew it
And only God knew why
A million times I need you
A million times I cried
If love alone could have saved you
You never would have died.
In life we love dearly
In death I love you still
In our heart you hold a place
That no one else can fill
It broke our heart to lose you
But you didn't go alone
For part of us went with you
The day God took you home

Forever loved and remembered
Jorge, Maria, Oscar and Melissa Mejia

In Memoriams **In Memoriams**

Josephine Divincenzo (Tummillo)
May 15, 1947 - April 26, 2012

To our beautiful Josephine,
always in our hearts and
never forgotten.
Love your sisters and brother,
sister-in-law & brother-in-laws.

If tears could build a stairway
and thoughts a memory lane
We'd walk right up to heaven
and bring you home again
No Farewell words were spoken
No time to say good-bye
You were gone before we knew it
And only God knows why.

Our hearts still active in sadness
and secret tears still flow
what it meant to lose you
no one can ever know.
But now we know you want us
to mourn for you no more
to remember all the happy times
life still has much in store.

Since you'll never be forgotten
we pledge to you today
a hallowed place within our hearts
is where you'll always stay.

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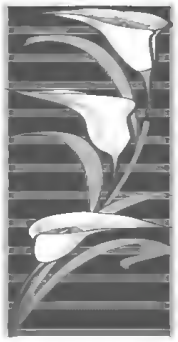

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$169,000
Spacious 3 bedroom, 2 storey character home. Close to downtown core.
BRIDE HAMLYN*1933 MLS N30011650

RIDGEWAY

JUST LISTED

$269,900
Raised ranch, first time on the market. Many upgrades and extras throughout
MARGE OTT**1973 MLS N30018223

RIDGEWAY

$164,500
Energy Audit & all major updates completed 2 bedroom, double garage & huge corner lot.
DAWN KENDRICK*1923 MLS N30016807

RIDGEWAY

$259,900
Centre of Ridgeway Commercial location. Business downstairs & apt. on 2nd floor.
JOE BARKER**1792 MLS N2016807

FORT ERIE

$132,000
Great 3 bdrm home on nice lot Great to start out or retire in.
PAM THOMAS*1968 MLS N30017472

RIDGEWAY

Prime Waterfront Lot on North Shore Drive. Fully Serviced Development in the Ridgeway area
JOE BARKER**1865 MLS N30004662

FORT ERIE

$159,000
Lovely character home
Lots of original wood incl. floors
PAM THOMAS*1965 MLS N3006539

RIDGEWAY

$379,000
Lovely country home on privare 5+ acres A nature lovers dream.
MARGE OTT** 1916 MLS N30009019

CRYSTAL BEACH

$109,900
This house has lots of potential
Many recent updates completed
DAWN KENDRICK*1951 MLS N30013328

CRYSTAL BEACH

$299,900
Live here and have it all:
Large home with lake view & private yard.
MARGE OTT**1895 MLS N30007467

CRYSTAL BEACH

$149,900
Cute and cozy bungalow close to lake. Relax & enjoy your family getaway.
PAM THOMAS*1909 MLS N30008398

RIDGEWAY

$229,900
Newer raised open concept bungalow
Nice walk to downtown Ridgeway
MARGE OTT**1967 MLS N30017294

FORT ERIE

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2 STOREY STRUCTURE
WELL MAINTAINED & UPDATED
MAIN FLOOR – 400 STORE FRONT & 1 APT
2ND FLOOR 2 APTS. – PARKING AT REAR
JOE BARKER1838**
MLS N30002506

FORT ERIE

$235,000
Well maintained 3 bdrm. bungalow
Large lot, close to Niagara Pkwy.
DAWN KENDRICK*1969 MLS N30017428

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Congratulates

Dawn Kendrick

Recipient of the 2012 Honour Society Award

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